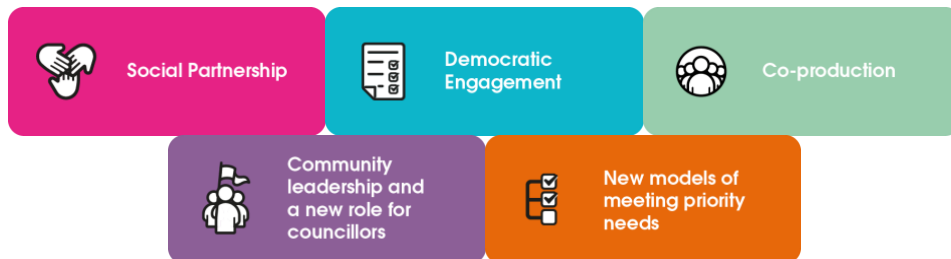




## COMMUNITY



## Greater Manchester Combined Authority

### Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Unit (VRU)

#### Community-led approach

The community-led approach to violence reduction, means the VRU works closely with communities to understand the strengths, challenges, and needs of the community and determine how local investments will be made.

When communities are affected by violence often the key to sustainable solutions can often be found by speaking to local residents about the underlying causes of crime, working with rather than deciding for them.

Working place-based, these initiatives are about learning the priorities in each community and co-designing services with local people that will benefit their community. All ten boroughs across the city region have received funding from the VRU as part of its investment in community-led programmes.

#### Community Spotlights

Our Community Spotlight Series was launched to amplify the positive stories of young people, community leaders, those with lived experience and other stakeholders from the communities we serve. The series hears from young people who are facilitating positive

change within their communities, the work that community organisations are doing within Greater Manchester and real stories of positive change.

Manchester Community Spotlight - <http://bit.ly/43RuhGT>

Salford Community Spotlight - <https://bit.ly/3vJ2iwi>

Oldham Community Spotlight - <https://bit.ly/3JaCtsd>

Bury Community Spotlight - <https://bit.ly/3J6p5W9>



Manchester Community Spotlight – Safia’s Story

### **Greater than Violence Strategy – capturing voices of young people**

Launched in December 2023, [the Greater than Violence strategy](#) commits to working with individuals and communities to understand their strengths, challenges, and ideas to tackle violence.

Led by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester, the strategy will work to improve lives by preventing violence, supporting victims, families and communities affected, and providing positive opportunities to those at risk of becoming victims, witnesses, or perpetrators, including education programmes, community sports, targeted mentoring, opportunities to develop new skills and therapeutic support.

The strategy is founded on two pillars: preventing violence from happening and responding swiftly and appropriately when it occurs. The VRU partnered with Manchester Metropolitan University’s Manchester Centre for Youth Studies (MCYS) to ensure the voices of young people from across Greater Manchester are captured in the strategy.

MCYS is an award-winning interdisciplinary research centre specialising in participatory, youth-informed research that positively influences the lives of young people.



Fatima Women's Association – developing educational opportunities for disadvantaged women in Oldham

To date, through MCYS, 70 young people have shared their experiences and thoughts on the causes of violence, where violence happens, what makes them feel safe/unsafe and what would help to address violence through a series of detailed conversations and facilitated

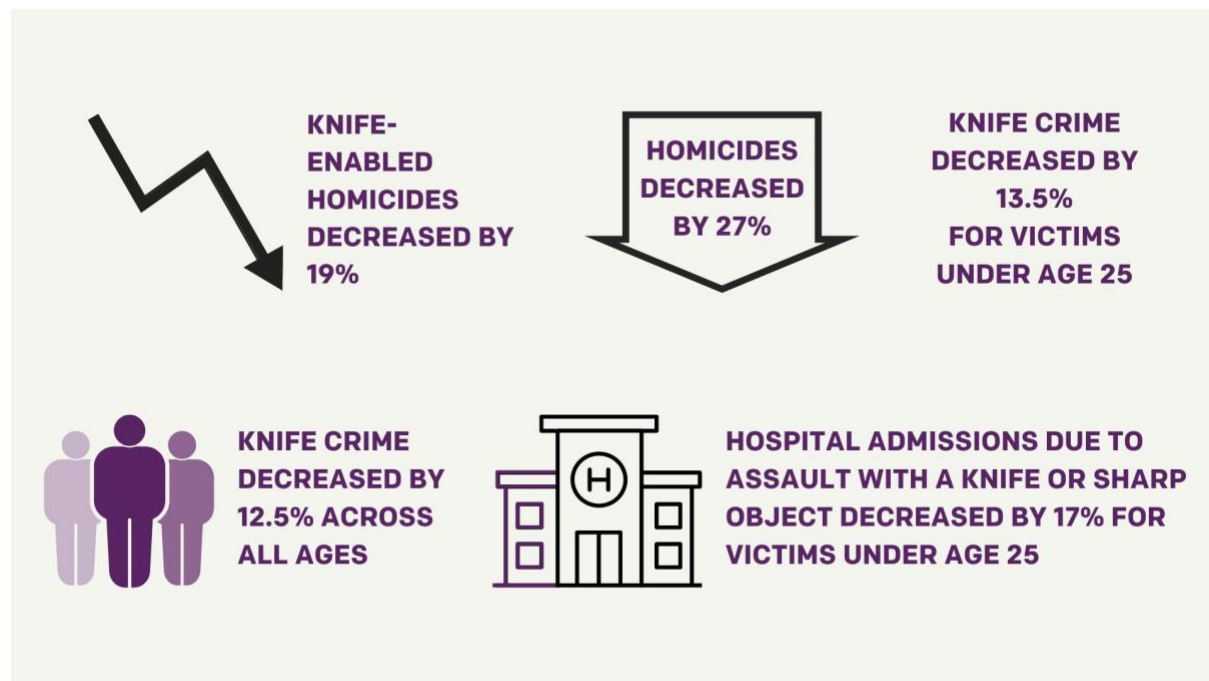


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workshops. This insight has helped to shape the principles and commitments included in the strategy – engagement will continue as implementation plans are developed.

Through the VRU's community-led programmes, young people and community members from across Greater Manchester have shared their experiences of violence and ideas for change, including the importance of long-term funding for community-led initiatives.



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